

FINAL

BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

There was a regular meeting of the Bloomfield Town Council held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, June 27, 2016 in Council Chambers, Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

Present were: Mayor Joan Gamble, Councilors Joseph Merritt, Patrick DeLorenzo, Wayne Hypolite, Joel Neuwirth, Derrick Seldon, Leon Rivers and Joseph Washington

Also present were: Philip K. Schenck, Jr., Town Manager, Sharron Howe, Assistant to the Town Manager, William Hogan, Director of Finance, Cindy Coville, Human Resource Director, Jose Giner, Director of Planning and Economic Development, Yvette Huyghue-Pannell, Director of Senior Services, Attorney Marc Needelman and India M. Rodgers, Clerk of Council

Absent was: Deputy Mayor Schulman

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting began with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

ANNOUCEMENTS & PRESENTATIONS

Filley Park Fundraising Committee – Addition of Mary Murray

Mayor Gamble appointed Ms. Mary Murray to the Filley Park Fundraising Committee.

Presentation of Check to the Bloomfield Food Bank by Mr. Robert Ike, Bloomfield Republican Town Committee Chair and Ms. Marie MacDonald, Vice Chair

Mr. Robert Ike, Chair of the Republican Town Committee presented a check to the Bloomfield Food Bank from proceeds of the Annual Lincoln Day Dinner.

Discussion on Certified Local Government Designation for Historic Preservation by Dale Bertoldi

Mr. Dave Bertoldi, 52 Duncaster Road of Ironwood Community Partners presented a goal to make the Town of Bloomfield reach Certified Local Government status for historical districts. Mr. Bertoldi requested that Council appoint an historic properties study committee for the purpose of making an investigation of one or more proposed historic properties. In addition, the town may qualify for planning grant funding to document and categorize historic properties.

Mayor Gamble referred this item to the next scheduled Land Use & Economic Development Subcommittee meeting.

Report from the Library Building Committee (Mark Weisman)

Mr. Mark Weisman, Chair of the Prosser Public Library Building Committee presented the Council with an update regarding the progress of this project.

Mr. Weisman reported new information regarding the possibility to acquire the Riley Lumber property, west of the existing site of Prosser Public Library located at 1 Tunxis Avenue. Mr. Riley has been in discussions with town administration regarding his willingness to sell the property to town. By obtaining this land parcel, it would provide additional parking needed. However, this property is also in the flood plain, so it could only be used for parking purposes. It was also suggested and recommended to build a pedestrian bridge for access to the main building.

The following new recommendations were made Tai Soo Kim Partners, LLC:

- Architectural design will be shaped rectangular and similar in design.
- Budget costs will also remain the same, \$20.2 million
- Building does not have to be physically elevated
- Abandon the basement area due to the flood zone

The building committee is comfortable with both proposed Town Hall and Existing sites. The existing site is the most desirable location as a consensus of the building committee.

Councilor Rivers inquired about the necessity to go to the Army Corp of Engineers to bridge over the main building from the proposed new parking lot location.

Councilor Seldon inquired about the purchase of the land parcel to the north of the library. It was noted based on the latest plan for renovation, this purchase is not required at this time.

CITIZENS STATEMENTS & PETITIONS

1. **Laura Fontaine, 11 Hampton Lane** spoke regarding the condition of the building at 330 Park Avenue. She also referenced the various services received at the Senior Center.
2. **Lucille Morisse, 17 Arnold Drive** is the Co-Chair for Commission on Aging. She stated that she is in support of the library as well as 330 Park Avenue. Mrs. Morisse estimated that 150 individuals daily frequent the 330 Park Avenue building for various programs. She is asking for a new safe building as a priority in the bond referendum proposed for the fall.
3. **Jane Nadel-Klein, 82 Tariffville Road** an advocate for “Save our Water” Bloomfield Citizens.org initiative expressed general concerns regarding town governance, inclusion of citizenry participation and

engagement. She also stated concerns about public comment not being allowed at the Special Meeting scheduled for June 28, 2016.

4. **Beatrice Llewelyn, 7 Alexander Road**, a former library board chair expressed her desired interest in plans to explore a new library building. She is also an advocate for renovation of the existing site. She pleaded with the Council to not delay in providing a 21st century library for the citizens of Bloomfield.
5. **Michael Robinson, 1192 Blue Hills Avenue** – spoke against Niagara Bottling regarding misleading information with jobs, construction personnel (out of state contractors) and the approval of \$4.1M tax abatement with no assurances for a direct economy investments.
6. **Andrew Walter, 47 Lincoln Terrance** spoke regarding the Niagara Bottling project. He expressed concerns about the issuance of a tax abatement for \$4.1M, labor concerns with out of town contractors. Mr. Walter stated that during negotiations, the Council should have insisted local employers and contractor participation. He requested Council to allow more direct dialogue on issues in the community with public input.
7. **Shawn McCauley, 16 Saw Mill Road, Burlington, CT** expressed his level of support for his fellow line workers and contractors not afforded an opportunity to bid on various construction jobs for the Niagara project.
8. **Joslyn Chance, 544 Bloomfield Avenue** is a union iron worker contractor. He stated that he had no opportunity to bid on the Niagara project and hope to have an opportunity in the future to bid on other local projects.
9. **Kevin Gough, 5 Bear Ridge Drive** made several comments regarding the following areas:
 - *Economic Development* should provide job opportunities for residents with newly constructed local projects as well as the State of Connecticut, there were no requirements from Niagara to ensure this request.
 - *Public Participation* should be accepted as a part of the standard agendas. More time should also be allotted for public input. A possible change in the structure of a meeting, requested more dialogue with Council.
 - *Bonding issues* with the three major capital improvement projects. The Public Works Garage is a definitely a priority due to health, safety and workplace concerns. Mr. Gough is in support of the library project, however he expressed concerns about the development of the Town Center. The Human Services Center at 330 Park Avenue provide essential services to residents in town. He recommended the Town Hall site for the new Community Center.
10. **Paula Jones, 5 Bear Ridge Drive** is in support of the Prosser Public Library. She applauded the building committee for their due diligence. She stated that it would be difficult to vote for the Town Hall site without having a defined plans regarding the vacancy of the existing site.
11. **Ruthanne Marchetti, 669 Bloomfield Avenue** advocated for Prosser Public Library. She requested that this project should be the town's priority for bond referendum in the November 2016 election. Mrs. Marchetti thanked Council, staff, library building committee for their commitment in providing accurate and precise information regarding this project.

12. **Joan Geetter, 14 Shibah Way** is a member of the library board for Prosser Public Library. She would like all voters to go to support bond referendum this fall. The Library Board initially voted to support the Town Hall site due the lack of need for a flood plan, no purchase of additional land and no need to relocate for renovations. However, the Library Board is in full support of the existing site based on new developments to acquire abutting property for additional parking needs.
13. **David Macbridge, 20 Westbrook Road** advocated for the Prosser Public Library and stated how invaluable it is to the town.
14. **Sharon Mann, 1 Adams Road** requested more public participation and comment with the Council. She requested Council consider changing the policy to comment at the end of the meeting for more dialogue between the public and Council.
15. **Valerie Rossetti, 88 Kenmore Road** stated that the agenda should include public citizen comment at the beginning and end of meeting. She stated concerns about comments made in the Golf Subcommittee meeting regarding the walking trail on the golf course. The Golf Subcommittee referred this item for discussion to a Connectivity Focus Group, which has no action plan or decision making powers. Ms. Rossetti thanked all labor union employees for attending the Council meeting.
16. **Robert Schwartz, 11 Tunxis Avenue** expressed his support of the Prosser Public Library. He also stated that allowing new residential development in the Town Center a game changer. There would be an influx of younger age population moving to town, based on volume of people, compared to things to do and entertainment. If the existing building is demolished, he stated that the town won't get a major retailer to build on such a primary corner of real estate in the Town Center. The library can fit into town moving north to include the vacant spaces of available real estate connecting to Filley Park as a gateway site.
17. **Bradley Klein, 82 Tariffville Road** requested figures on the general obligation rate for for all residents, per capita data for the town and a basis for deciding threshold for projects.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEES

Administration & Education – The next regularly scheduled meeting (July 5, 2016) of this subcommittee will be cancelled.

Golf – Councilor Rivers gave a brief update of the golf course. The course is doing well financially. There were some discussion points of reference from town residents regarding walking trail, noise ordinance and preliminary outline of a banquet hall facility.

Public Safety – Councilor Washington read a brief subcommittee report of the last meeting held on June 13, 2016.

Committee on Committees – The last subcommittee meeting scheduled for June 20, 2016 was cancelled. The next scheduled meeting will be held on July 18, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

ADDITION TO THE AGENDA

It was moved by Councilor Merritt, seconded by Councilor DeLorenzo and voted unanimously to add agenda item **FY 15/16-86: Discussion and Possible Action regarding Certified Local Government Designation for Historic Preservation.**

COUNCIL BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

FY 15/16-83: Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Policy 110.04 (Town of Bloomfield Meeting Agenda Format and Minutes)

Mayor Gamble referred this agenda item to the next scheduled Administration & Education Subcommittee meeting.

FY 15/16-84: Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Policy 110.05 (Bloomfield Town Council Rules of Procedure)

Mayor Gamble referred this agenda item to the next scheduled Administration & Education Subcommittee meeting.

FY 15/16-86: Discussion and Possible Action regarding Certified Local Government Designation for Historic Preservation

It was moved by Councilor Merritt, seconded by Councilor Neuwirth and voted unanimously to refer this agenda item to the next scheduled Land Use & Economic Development Subcommittee meeting scheduled for Monday, July 18, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Gamble reported that the Blue Hills Fire Department inducted four interns into their internship program.

Mayor Gamble also noted the excellent participation and dedications at the Mayoral Brunch on June 26, 2016. This event was held at Wintonbury Hills Golf Course to honor and recognize all former Bloomfield mayors and their accomplishments.

Town Manager's Report

Mr. Schenck, Jr., Town Manager reported the following updates to the Town Council:

- Mr. Schenck, Jr. reminded citizens that tax bills have been issued.
- On June 24, 2016, Mr. Schenck, Jr. attended a fundraiser event at Auer Farm.

- On June 21, 2016, Mr. Schenck, Jr. attended a beam signing with Habitat for Humanity. They are building a new home on East Morningside.
- As a reminder, road work and repavement are underway in various neighborhoods.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Councilor Neuwirth, seconded by Councilor Rivers to approve the minutes of May 23, 2016.

**VOTE: AYE: J. Gamble, J. Washington, W. Hypolite, L. Rivers, D. Seldon, J. Neuwirth, J. Merritt
 NAY: None
 ABSTAIN: P. DeLorenzo**

The motion carries, 7-0-1

It was moved by Councilor Neuwirth, seconded by Councilor Rivers and voted unanimously to approve the minutes of June 13, 2016 with noted corrections.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor DeLorenzo stated that he is looking forward for discussions at the Special meeting scheduled for June 28, 2016. There will be discussion and possible action regarding three major capital improvement projects. Councilor DeLorenzo expressed the difficulty in deciding and prioritizing what is best for the town. He plans to utilize the decision making matrix to assist in his decision.

Councilor Neuwirth thanked all who participated and assisted with Celebrate Bloomfield events during June 1 – June 4, 2016. The date for next year's event has been changed to the second week in June.

Councilor Washington was present at the Mayoral brunch in which he stated was extraordinary. In addition, Councilor Washington will evaluate the needs and wants of all three projects. He will continue to compile data as well as analyze all views expressed by colleagues, town staff and the citizenry.

Councilor Rivers reiterated the difficulty in making a decision regarding the three major capital projects. The best decision will be for the residents of the Town of Bloomfield.

Councilor Seldon stated that it was great to see the public so passionate about the community. He also stated that it is unfortunate that the town infrastructure has been in disrepair for several years.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:23 p.m., it was moved by Councilor Rivers, seconded by Councilor DeLorenzo to enter into Executive Session A. Discussion Concerning Employee Evaluation – Town Manager with the Town Council only.

ADJOURNMENT At ???